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United Nations

Commission for Social Development

Report on the fifty-sixth session (10 February 2017 and 29 January–7 February 2018)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

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Summary

The fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development was held on 10 February 2017 and from 29 January to 7 February 2018, with the priority theme of "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all". This was the policy year of the two-year review and policy cycle. The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the emerging issue: "Towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development".

In her address, the President of the Economic and Social Council underscored that the Commission's work during the session would be critical to advancing progress in other Commissions that would gather in later months to deliberate on issues relating to sustainable development. The Economic and Social Council was at the heart of the United Nations system with respect to its efforts to advance sustainable development. In that regard, the Commission for Social Development played an essential role in supporting and implementing the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Deputy Secretary-General underlined that the Commission for Social Development had a key role to play in seeking bold and transformative actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. She noted that the 2030 Agenda built on progress made since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and achievements under the Millennium Development Goals. The Deputy Secretary-General noted the impressive reductions in extreme poverty at the global level, including through improving access to schooling and health care and promoting the empowerment of women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous populations. The drop in extreme poverty, however, remained uneven across regions, within countries and among various social groups. Of concern were the persistently high levels of poverty and deprivation among women and children, indigenous groups, older persons and persons with disabilities. Unemployment and underemployment among young people also remained unacceptably high, with many working in vulnerable jobs with low pay and poor conditions. Furthermore, inequality between and within countries remained high and, in some cases, had worsened. To tackle those challenges, the Commission had a critical role to play in promoting inclusive social policies and universal social protection.

A youth representative briefed the Commission on the outcome of the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum and called for the full participation of young people in decision-making, including strengthening meaningful youth participation at the United Nations. Several youth delegates also delivered statements on behalf of their delegations, stressing the importance of the role of young people as agents of change in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development presented the outcome of the Civil Society Forum, which advocated for more progressive and inclusive policies to ensure leaving no one behind.

During the general discussions, delegations underscored that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remained the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries. The increase in relative poverty in high-income countries was also singled out as a major concern. While acknowledging that progress had been made in eradicating extreme poverty, delegates warned that conflicts, rising inequality, volatile financial markets, corruption, climate change and health-related threats remained significant obstacles to the achievement of sustainable development. They called for policies that fostered

structural transformation and boosted job creation; the scaling-up of investments in quality education and health, universal social protection, agriculture and infrastructure; progressive policies to distribute wealth and empower women; and an increase in official development assistance (ODA).

During the panel discussion on the priority theme, delegates underscored that progress in the eradication of poverty required addressing the multidimensional character of all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable development policies must have human development and gender equality at their heart. Countries were urged to abandon outdated palliative measures in favour of modern social policies that were funded by earmarked resources and supported by strong political will. Effective and efficient social protection systems should be capable of adjusting to changes in the social reality, with attention paid to older persons, women and children and other vulnerable groups. It was also emphasized that poverty was not just about economic factors, but must be managed politically.

During the panel discussion on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, delegations highlighted the increase in the number of older persons globally and the many challenges they faced, including neglect, alienation, poverty and underemployment. To address the specific challenges affecting older persons, delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and welcomed its third review and appraisal cycle.

Speakers on the panel on disability called for a number of steps to improve the evidence base to monitor progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Calls were made for the collection and sharing of data and information on displaced persons with disabilities among United Nations agencies working in humanitarian situations and the use of the short set of questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the panel discussion on the theme "Towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development", the importance of a multi-stakeholder social platform was highlighted. That would allow all stakeholders to discuss the opportunities and challenges that innovation, technological advances, interconnectivity and digital transformation brought to society. Several delegates suggested the need to embrace a new governance of innovation architecture to enhance equity, inclusion and equality, including gender equality, and ensure accountability and transparency. Investment in infrastructure would be important for more equitable access. In view of the importance of the subject of innovation and interconnectivity, the Commission was encouraged to further debate those issues.

On partnerships, countries underscored the importance of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for the achievement of shared economic and social development objectives. Developed countries were urged to honour their ODA commitments and to promote a just international economic order and cease protectionist and discriminatory trade policies against countries in the South. The United Nations was also called upon to better support middle-income countries in development cooperation.

In reviewing its methods of work, the Commission underscored the commitment of Member States to strengthening the Commission for Social Development, given that it had the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. It was noted that the Commission for Social Development was the principal United Nations forum for intensive global dialogue on social development issues and emerging issues that had a strong bearing on inclusive, equitable and

sustainable development. The Commission decided to continue to consider the biennialization of its resolutions with a view to strengthening the resolution on the priority theme and to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Commission also decided to consider its priority theme each year based on the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. Further, the Commission would consider adopting a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation.

The Commission decided that the priority theme for the 2019 session would be "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies". It also decided to review the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities by proceeding to the review of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, "The way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond". The Chair's summary of the panel discussions is available from the website of the Commission (https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd56.html).

The Commission adopted four draft resolutions that were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, on: (a) Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development; (b) Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all; (c) Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; and (d) Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008, 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, 2012/7 of 26 July 2012, 2014/3 of 12 June 2014 and 2016/6 of 2 June 2016 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the outcome of the World Summit[1] and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly,[2]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and stressing the importance of the implementation of this ambitious new Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly stipulated that the Council should invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme and that it should ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clearer policy guidance to them,

Recognizing the commitment, and emphasizing the need, to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ of the Organization, in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, by which it decided that the Commission for Social Development, in fulfilling its mandate, should assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen

[1] A/CONF.166/9.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and should advise the Council thereon,

Recognizing the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Mindful of the review by the General Assembly of the arrangements contained in its resolution 68/1 and the annex thereto, to be made during its seventy-second session, and the ongoing process of discussions on the reform of the United Nations, in particular the process of repositioning the United Nations development system,[4]

Recognizing that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[5] and the World Programme of Action for Youth,[6] the objectives of the International Year of the Family and their follow-up processes and the outcome document "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond",[7] as well as the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[8] and other relevant key instruments, are mutually reinforcing to the advancement of social development for all,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council needs to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of its agenda, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

2. *Affirms* that the Commission continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including

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[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] See A/72/124-E/2018/3.

[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] General Assembly resolutions 50/81, annex, and 62/126, annex.

[7] A/68/95.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

cross-cutting issues, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements established by the General Assembly and the Council;

4. *Decides* that the Commission will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work;

5. *Invites* the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the relevant specialized agencies, regional commissions, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to present their relevant activities and reports, which may contribute to the advancement of the priority theme, including by participating in interactive dialogues with Member States and relevant stakeholders;

6. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work, including by addressing the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Decides* that, with regard to the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission shall review the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[10] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[11] by proceeding to the review of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond";[7]

8. *Requests* the Commission to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation: in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcomes of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

9. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2019 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies";

10. *Also decides* to continue to consider the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission, with a view to strengthening the resolution on the priority theme, eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

11. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in line with Council resolution

[10] A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).
[11] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, including as related to the timing and number of working days of its sessions, at its fifty-seventh session in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work of the Council, in line with the outcome of the General Assembly review of the strengthening of the Council and the process of repositioning the United Nations Development system.

Draft resolution II
Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2] the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[3] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[5] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[7] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[8] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9]

Recognizing the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[10] and noting the relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[6] General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[7] General Assembly resolution 65/1.
[8] General Assembly resolution 57/2.
[9] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.
[10] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, containing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, on the theme "Strengthening the African family for inclusive development in Africa", held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, and the first session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, on the theme "Social protection for inclusive development", held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 April 2015, recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and noting the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa in January 2016,

Acknowledging the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, both of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and offer an important opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development, and underscoring in this regard the importance of a coherent and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda,

Noting with appreciation the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty on the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 October 2017, and recalling also the second session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, held in Algiers from 24 to 28 April 2017,

Noting with concern the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, as well as violence and other harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation, and welcoming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa, launched at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage and the endorsement by the Pan-African Parliament in August 2016 of a ban on female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that, after the latest global financial crisis, the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions, low commodity prices, subdued trade growth and volatile capital flows, that, notwithstanding the impact of the financial crisis, financial flows and the share of developing countries in world trade have continued to increase, that these advances have contributed to a substantial reduction

in the number of people living in extreme poverty, and that, despite these gains, many countries, particularly developing countries, still face considerable challenges and some have fallen further behind, emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[11] and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

Recognizing also the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

Recognizing further that investments in people, especially in their social protection, health inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, are essential to enhancing productivity in all sectors, including agriculture, and thereby key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities for all, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial,

Recognizing also that the lack of access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 36 countries, 30 of which are in Africa, that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conferences on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[12]

Underscoring that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including

[11] A/57/304, annex.

[12] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[11] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraging them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the voluntary adherence of 37 African countries to the Mechanism and the completion of the peer review process in 21 countries, welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process, and encourages further strengthening of the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

7. *Welcomes* the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend, which outlines policy actions based on empowerment, education and employment to achieve the dividend, and welcomes the declaration by the African Union of 2018–2027 as the African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment;

8. Also welcomes the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to declare 2018 as African Anti-Corruption Year;

9. Urges all countries that have not yet done so to ratify and/or accede to the United Nations Con ention against Corruption,[14] encourages States parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument for deterring, detecting, preventing and countering corruption and bribery, prosecuting those involved in corrupt activities and recovering and returning stolen assets to their

[13] E/CN.5/2018/2.

[14] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

country of origin, as appropriate, encourages the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expresses support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urges the updating and ratification of regional conventions against corruption, and strives to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

10. *Notes* that health is a precondition, an indicator and an outcome of sustainable development and that, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] robust efforts are needed to sustain gains made under the Millennium Development Goals and integrate additional health issues into a broad health and development agenda, particularly the extension of universal health coverage;

11. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, notes that 48 African countries have since integrated the objectives of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa into their national strategies, and urges the pursuit and implementation of commitments to improve maternal and child health;

12. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,[15] adopted on 8 June 2016 at the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an Africa free of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, by addressing the needs of all, in particular those of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to significantly scale up efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

13. *Also takes note* of the decision of the African Union to extend the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 so as to achieve full implementation, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform from which to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with relevant international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support the efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the Road Map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

14. *Encourages* African countries to prioritize investments in building the institutional capacity of health systems, reduce health inequities within and across

[15] General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

countries, progressively achieve universal health coverage and curb the outbreak of major diseases;

15. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including by providing support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of disease, including outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

16. *Encourages* Member States to continue to provide international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

17. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

19. *Further emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure productive employment creation and decent work for all, to promote quality education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

20. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

21. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in inclusive, equitable and quality education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

22. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, with due regard to the sustainable management and use of natural resources, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine

for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

23. *Encourages* African countries to continue to foster political stability, promote peace and security and strengthen the governance, policy and institutional environment in order to enhance the prospects for inclusive and sustainable development, and to develop an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic transformation and the creation of productive employment and decent work for all;

24. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use such assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Welcomes* the increase of official development assistance in real terms in 2016, but expresses its concern that bilateral net official development assistance to least developed countries fell slightly in real terms in 2016, after increasing in 2015, and that many countries still fall short of their respective official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all such commitments remains crucial and that for many least developed countries and landlocked developing countries official development assistance remains the largest source of external financing, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent with respect to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages providers of official development assistance to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

26. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and that in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, and therefore requests those stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries, while also acknowledging that official development assistance and other concessional finance is still important for a number of these countries and has a role to play for targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries;

27. *Also recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including in Africa, to independently achieving sustainable development;

28. *Further recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

29. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to align the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa,[16] reaffirms General Assembly resolution 71/254 of 23 December 2016, entitled "Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027", and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Coordination Mechanism in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of the financing necessary to support the implementation of its activities;

30. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

31. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of sustainable agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase the access of smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

32. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

33. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external

[16] The nine clusters include: governance; science and technology; infrastructure development; social and human development; agriculture, food security and rural development; peace and security; environment, population and urbanization; advocacy and communication; and industry, trade and market access.

funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[17]

34. *Also recognizes* the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First and Second United Nations Decades for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006 and 2008–2017), and welcomes the proclamation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/233 of 20 December 2017 in order to maintain the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

35. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing productive employment, generating decent work for all, particularly those who are vulnerable, including women and young people, and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

36. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of adequate human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including policy coherence, coordination and implementation, as well as planning, management and monitoring capacities;

37. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, including efforts to realize girls' right to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education;

38. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of quality education, skills training and entrepreneurship programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

39. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

40. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend driven by large proportions of young people moving into their prime

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

working years, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

41. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

42. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for sustainable development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

43. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

44. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012, which can serve as a guideline for social investment;

45. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

46. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on information, communications and culture to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership, and urges the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

47. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

48. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and give due consideration to Agenda 2063 of the African Union at its fifty-seventh session;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July

2012, 67/294 of 15 August 2013, 68/301 of 17 July 2014, 69/290 of 19 June 2015, 70/295 of 25 July 2016 and 71/320 of 8 September 2017, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-seventh session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Draft resolution III
Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2016/6 of 29 July 2016, in which it decided that the priority theme for the 2017–2018 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development would be "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all",

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session[2] constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reiterating that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting each country's policy space and leadership, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to eradicate poverty,

Reaffirming that the internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international levels, with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, recognizing the need to strengthen political impetus in their implementation and

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March* 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

follow-up to their outcomes, and recognizing in particular that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Noting with concern the uneven progress achieved, that major gaps remain and that obstacles persist in fulfilling the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and that there are rising inequalities within and among many countries,

Reaffirming that empowerment and participation are essential for social development and that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of all, particularly those who are vulnerable or marginalized, with due regard to the need for the full and equal participation of women and girls, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and of hunger is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and acknowledging the significant role that the United Nations system has played and should continue to play in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and people of African descent,

Welcoming the remarkable progress made since 1990, which has lifted 1 billion people out of extreme poverty, and the unprecedented decrease in the percentage of people living on less than 1.90 United States dollars a day since the beginning of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017),

Remaining deeply concerned that progress has been uneven, inequality has increased and 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty, the total number of persons living in extreme poverty remains unacceptably high and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and is particularly severe in developing countries, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as social exclusion, hunger, vulnerability to trafficking in persons, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness, among others, as well as structural and systemic

inequalities — social, political, economic and cultural, often remain unaddressed and further entrench poverty,

Recalling the commitment in Agenda 2030 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and in this regard remaining deeply concerned at the increase in the number of chronically undernourished people and the rise in the absolute number of people affected by hunger globally, and recalling that growth in gross domestic product originating in agriculture is on average at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth in non-agricultural sectors,

Reaffirming the call for targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the importance of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, and recognizing that social protection floors provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability,

Noting that in order to make further progress in the eradication of poverty inequality must be addressed in all its dimensions, and recognizing that high levels of inequality negatively affect consumption and economic growth and its sustainability and that inequality impedes lower-income households from remaining healthy and accumulating physical and human capital, thereby lowering labour productivity and reducing social mobility, making it more difficult to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and trapping a large segment of the population in poverty,

Bearing in mind that, in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and vulnerability, promote the well-being of all persons of all ages, boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and address the feminization of poverty, positive action needs to be taken, including in the form of policies at the national and international levels that address existing inequalities in the distribution of services, resources and infrastructure, as well as access to food, health care, education and decent work in cities and other human settlements,

Recognizing that coordinated health, social and economic policies are needed to address the health of the most vulnerable and marginalized, who are often the most exposed to violence, discrimination, stigmatization, social exclusion and health risk factors, owing mostly to their living conditions, poor health literacy and inequality in access to health care and other relevant services,

Noting with particular concern that only 29 per cent of the global population is covered by comprehensive social security systems that include the full range of benefits from child and family benefits to old-age pensions, that only 45.2 per cent of the global population is effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit and that, in rural areas, 56 per cent of the population lacks health-care coverage, compared with 22 per cent in urban areas,

Noting that investing in old-age, disability and child benefits could directly reduce poverty rates and have a wider positive impact on nutrition, health and education as well as on local economic development and employment, resulting in lower levels of poverty and vulnerability in the medium and longer terms,

Noting with particular satisfaction that, increasingly, countries are expanding the fiscal space available for introducing various elements of social protection, and that a number of middle- and low-income countries have already initiated components of national social protection systems and extended them successfully, with demonstrable positive impacts on poverty reduction,

Recognizing that nationally appropriate social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and those who are vulnerable or marginalized and subject to discrimination, and that promoting universal access to social services and providing nationally appropriate social protection floors can contribute to addressing and reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion and promoting inclusive economic growth,

Recognizing also that social protection is an investment in people and thus in long-term social and economic development and that nationally appropriate social protection systems and floors are making a critical contribution to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at poverty eradication and exerting a positive impact on economic growth, social cohesion and social development and that they have an essential role to play in building resilient and environmentally friendly societies,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, that its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development, that increases in global temperature, environmental degradation, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States, and that the survival of many societies and of the biological support systems of the planet is at risk, which further threatens food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and thus requires urgent action to maintain, preserve and sustain the development gains achieved in the past decades,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Recognizes* that poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including promoting social dialogue, and social integration are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that an internal and external enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that these objectives can be pursued simultaneously and that policies to pursue these objectives must promote social justice, social cohesion, intergenerational solidarity and economic recovery and growth, and must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable;

3. *Emphasizes* that the international community, through the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[5] has reinforced the urgency of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion within the United Nations development agenda;

4. *Stresses* that Member States should take all measures necessary in order to leave no one behind, while respecting the human rights of all and promoting social protection and equal access to quality essential public services for all, such as quality education and health care, including maternity, newborn, child, long-term and palliative care and social care services, and recognizes that this involves the active participation of every member of society, without any kind of discrimination, in civic,

[3] E/CN.5/2018/3.

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

social, economic, cultural and political activities and in decision-making processes at all levels;

5. *Stresses also* that special efforts should be made to foster and enhance the participation of all members of society, including people living in poverty and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, in all aspects of political, economic, social, civic and cultural life, in particular the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate, of policies that affect them;

6. *Recognizes* that eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity require collective and transformative efforts, putting the furthest behind first and adapting institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and the inherent interlinkages between different Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequality, including gender inequality, on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investing in sustainable agriculture and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, enhancing interconnectivity and achieving access to energy, and improving access to financial services, as well as promoting decent rural employment, improving access to quality education, promoting quality health care, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, expanding social protection coverage, climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating inequality and social exclusion;

8. *Recognizes* that the creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all should be a central objective of national policies and that macroeconomic policies should contribute to creating more and better job opportunities and an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship, which is essential for the creation of new jobs, and calls for the respect, promotion and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work, in accordance with the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

9. *Recognizes also* that to keep up with the growth of the global working population, more than 600 million new jobs will need to be created by 2030, while at the same time poor job quality, underemployment and informal work, which remain pervasive worldwide, particularly in developing countries, will need to be addressed, and underlines the need to support innovative approaches in the design and implementation of employment policies and programmes for all, including the long-term unemployed, such as public investment in infrastructure, the promotion of decent work and support to entrepreneurs;

10. *Emphasizes* that addressing these challenges requires a mix of policies that sustain growth of output and decent jobs, which could include existing labour market policies that have been strengthened, redefined and reoriented, and in this regard acknowledges the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full and productive employment and decent work for all, and encourages the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives, to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and

particularly for young people, including through partnerships with Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

11. *Urges* Member States to ensure active labour market policies, in order to provide decent work for people living in poverty and a fair share for workers of gains from increased productivity resulting from structural transformation and trade, and to accelerate efforts to eliminate barriers to social inclusion and to promote full participation in all aspects of society by people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and people of African descent;

12. *Also urges* Member States to promote and respect the right to education throughout the life cycle at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, including by providing universal access to quality education, ensuring inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, enhancing the recruitment and training of teachers, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all and the completion of primary and secondary education and eliminating gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promoting financial and digital literacy, ensuring that women and girls in particular have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships and adopting positive action to build the leadership skills and influence of women and girls, and to adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support persons with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

13. *Reiterates* that access to quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education and lifelong learning, including in information and communications technologies, for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable people of all ages, particularly young people, to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the action necessary to ensure that young people in particular have access to such services and opportunities;

14. *Urges* Member States to continue their efforts to reduce the burden of disease and improve the health and well-being of their people by addressing the social determinants of health, promoting universal health coverage, increasing the coverage of child immunization, expanding HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment programmes, supporting community-based service delivery, providing safe drinking water and sanitation and improving nutrition;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

16. *Calls upon* the international community and global health partners, as well as regional and national stakeholders, to support Member States in carrying out their primary responsibilities to accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage, and tackle social, economic and environmental determinants of health, as well as demographic challenges, including population ageing, provide social protection and

adopt integrated, people-centred, community-based and gender-responsive health services based on human rights, which will help to empower those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, enhance health equity and equality, end discrimination and create a more inclusive society;

17. *Expresses deep concern* that maternal health remains one area constrained by some of the largest health inequities in the world, and over the uneven progress in improving newborn, child and maternal health, and in this context calls upon States to implement their commitments to preventing and reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality and morbidity through, inter alia, equitable and universal access to affordable and quality health-care services and preventive health-care information, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health;

18. *Encourages* Member States to provide universal and age-, disability- and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, such as when headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health services;

19. *Also encourages* Member States, in the context of their national sustainable development frameworks and the associated integrated financing frameworks, to formulate and implement national strategies to extend social security and essential social services to all, that are responsive to shocks, sustainable in the long run and focused on those furthest below the poverty line, within their economic and fiscal capacities;

20. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with national circumstances, to establish as quickly as possible and maintain the social protection floors that comprise basic social security, so that all persons in need have access to essential health care, including maternity, newborn, child, long-term and palliative care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality, and to ensure basic income security for children, basic income security for persons of active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability, inter alia, in the context of efforts to enable employment, and basic income security for older persons, as set out in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) of the International Labour Organization;

21. *Encourages* Member States, when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes, to ensure gender mainstreaming and the promotion and protection of all human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, throughout the process;

22. *Recognizes* the importance of providing social protection schemes for the formal and informal economy as instruments for achieving equity, inclusion and stability and cohesion of societies, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy;

23. *Welcomes* the importance accorded by the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up at its 2017 session, inter alia, to the need to ensure that social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, are well designed, efficiently operated, responsive to shocks and sustainable in the long term, appreciates in this context the commitment to expand peer learning and experience-sharing among countries and regions and the encouragement given to international capacity-building support to help countries to identify the right financing mixes to match their respective needs, capacities and national circumstances, and also appreciates the invitation by the forum to its

Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to compile an inventory of relevant domestic and international financial instruments and modalities and existing quick-disbursing international facilities and the requirements for accessing them, for assured provision of social protection, for discussion at the 2018 session of the forum;

24. *Also welcomes* the progress on financial inclusion across all income groups and all regions in recent years, while being concerned that 2 billion people, primarily in rural areas in developing countries, still do not have access to formal financial services and remaining concerned about the gender gap in financial inclusion;

25. *Calls upon* States to promote more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains, such as through policies that aim to ensure inclusive labour markets, socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which the creation of more and better job opportunities has a key role and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, and by providing fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors, for all members of society, including those who are vulnerable or marginalized;

26. *Also calls* upon States to support innovative and inclusive finance that promotes universal access for individuals and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and in particular women, youth and other disadvantaged groups, at a reasonable cost, to a wide range of financial services, given that such services can be an effective tool to significantly reduce poverty and lower income inequality when delivered through a coordinated and sustained effort among Governments, the private sector, development partners and consumers;

27. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening the productive capacities of the least developed countries in all sectors, including through structural transformation, and adopting policies that increase productive capacities, productivity and productive employment; financial inclusion; sustainable agriculture, pastoralist and fisheries development; sustainable industrial development; universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services; sustainable transport systems; and quality and resilient infrastructure;

28. *Also emphasizes* the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries;

29. *Encourages* States to make public investments in infrastructure and, where viable, to promote an increase in private investments in infrastructure that prioritize social and economic inclusion and accessibility, boost interconnectivity, trade and regional integration and meet the needs of poor people, disadvantaged areas, local communities and others that are in vulnerable situations;

30. *Also encourages* States to promote equitable, affordable, accessible and sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, rural roads, irrigation, affordable housing, modern and renewable energy, electrification, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, mass transit systems, health-care facilities and family planning, education, culture, and information and communications technologies;

31. *Urges* Member States to develop gender- and youth-responsive policies, programmes and strategies in agriculture and fisheries that revitalize and reinvest in the rural non-farm economy, smallholder farmers and fishers, particularly women farmers and fishers, by, inter alia, increasing public and private investment in agricultural research and extension services, developing rural and urban areas and

sustainable agriculture and fisheries, undertaking small-scale mechanization, increasing the usage of high-yielding seed varieties and fertilizers and improving infrastructure and access to markets, as well as improving strategies for transferring readily adaptable technologies to local farmers;

32. *Expresses deep concern* that climate change and environmental degradation pose a challenge to poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development, threaten food security and increase the risks of famine, and that those living in poverty, especially in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by the impacts of desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, and underlines the need for climate-related vulnerability to be well incorporated into national development plans and strategies for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality and for social protection systems to be established and developed to withstand emergency situations, in order to protect those who are most vulnerable;

33. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters, climate change, conflicts and major outbreaks of disease are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

34. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts and recognizes that these will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, to improve their access to and remove barriers from all resources needed for the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, to ensure equal access to quality education for women and girls to strengthen their economic independence, and to improve access to equal opportunities with men and boys in employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels, which is essential for poverty eradication and the empowerment of women and girls;

35. *Recognizes* the important role that families can play in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and highlights the importance of investing in family-oriented policies and programmes in areas such as education, training, decent work, work-family balance, health care, social services, intergenerational relationships and solidarity, and targeted cash transfers for vulnerable families, in order to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all persons of all ages, as well as to contribute to better outcomes for children and other vulnerable family members and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

36. *Invites* Member States to invest in a variety of family-oriented policies and programmes, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

37. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen laws and regulatory frameworks that promote the reconciliation and sharing of work and family responsibilities for women and men, including by designing, implementing and promoting family-responsive legislation, policies and services, such as parental and other leave schemes, increased flexibility in working arrangements, support for breastfeeding mothers, development of infrastructure and technology, and the provision of services,

including affordable, accessible and quality child care and care facilities for children and other dependants, and promoting men's equitable responsibilities with respect to household work as fathers and caregivers, which create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment;

38. *Reaffirms* the rights of persons with disabilities and the commitment to achieving their full and equal participation in all parts of society, including through the mainstreaming of a disability perspective in all development efforts, and recognizes that this will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and that social integration and economic policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education, employment and health-care services for all, actively work to eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, and address the potential challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

39. *Recognizes* the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among them, and in this regard encourages Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

40. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies; as well as consider expanding, in accordance with domestic legislation and policies, the reach of sustainable pension schemes, including, but not limited to, strategies such as social pensions, and increasing their benefits, with a view to ensuring income security in old age;

41. *Acknowledges* the positive contribution of youth, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society, as a way of contributing to a progressively fairer distribution of opportunities for youth, which will constitute a step forward in economic development, social justice, social integration and equity, and emphasizes the need to substantially increase the number of youth who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship and to ensure, by 2020, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy;

42. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements in efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, social inclusion, full employment and full participation in society, and in this regard stresses the importance of promoting access to health-care services, nationally owned social protection and social services as an essential instrument for empowering youth;

43. *Encourages* Member States to consider the impact of rapid technological change and increased interconnectivity on the delivery of social services, and

underlines the importance of supporting innovation, fully respecting the right to privacy, mitigating potential related risks that may undermine people's livelihoods and well-being and supporting the exchange of information, knowledge and good policies and practices at the national, regional and international levels where innovation and new technologies have helped to advance social development, with particular attention to the most marginalized;

44. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve data collection, analysis and monitoring to measure and achieve progress in advancing equality, social justice and participation for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, taking regional contexts fully into account, and to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and underlines the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability;

45. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in line with the outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, to support countries, upon their request, in collecting and analysing data and formulating policies on poverty in all its forms and dimensions, in support of national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

46. *Recognizes* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that significant additional domestic public resources, supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and also recognizes the commitment to enhance revenue administration, in particular through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy and more efficient tax collection;

47. *Reaffirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

48. *Recognizes*, in this regard, that national development efforts, including social development efforts, need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance;

49. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

50. *Encourages* developed countries to implement their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

51. *Acknowledges* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizes the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development;

52. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

53. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection and to address the issues of illicit financial flows and corruption;

54. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small and medium-sized businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals, and *acknowledges* the importance of efforts to promote the exchange of information and knowledge on decent work for all and job creation, including decent work initiatives and related skills, and to facilitate the integration of relevant data into national economic and employment policies;

55. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to promote the exchange of information on measuring poverty beyond income, and highlighting in this regard the important work of the United Nations system in supporting multidimensional measurements and assessment of poverty;

56. *Also invites* all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

57. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites civil society, to provide technical and other assistance to Governments, upon their request, to formulate and implement national strategies to extend social security and social services to all, including for social protection floors.

Draft resolution IV
Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,[1] the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 72/144 of 19 December 2017 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 33/5 of 29 September 2016[2] and previous Human Rights Council resolutions on ageing,

Recalling further that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,[3] decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] which was based on the results of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Noting the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and its contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action,

Noting also the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, appointed by the Human Rights Council, on the assessment of the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] which includes several aspirational and global targets that are specific to older persons, and stressing the importance of ensuring that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in the implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Recognizing population ageing as one of the major trends that is likely to shape the prospects for achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing also that implementing the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action and the relevant regional implementation strategies will help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to efforts to leave no one behind,

Stressing that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in its different forms and ways, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action,

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[4] E/CN.5/2018/4.

[5] Resolution 70/1.

Recognizing the steps taken in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by Member States, as well as relevant United Nations mechanisms, bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, and taking note of the establishment of an informal inter-agency group on ageing in 2017,

Recognizing also that it is important for Member States to take concrete measures, in accordance with national legislation and consistent with applicable international law, to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, consistent with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[6] and to raise awareness in this area,

Recognizing further the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all measures concerning older persons in order to take into account the specific needs and experiences of older women and men,

Recognizing the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledging the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, such as the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017, the fourth Economic Commission for Europe Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in Lisbon from 20 to 22 September 2017, the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2017, and the regional review processes and reports of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna,

1. *Recognizes* the successful conclusion of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] and its results at the international, regional and national levels, which highlighted several common challenges across regions, from the various perspectives of demographic transition, cultural norms and level of economic development, including the health and well-being of older persons and the improvement of related health and care services, as well as the expansion, improvement and sustainability of social protection systems and other income support measures, all of which remain a priority in all regions;

2. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen further the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and use it as a tool for the inclusion of older persons in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Recognizes* the potential of older persons and the essential contribution they can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if adequate guarantees are in place, and encourages Member States to create an enabling environment for the full participation of older persons in political, social, economic and cultural life, while taking into account the diversity in the situations of older persons;

4. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity,

[6] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen a national coordinating body or mechanism, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

6. *Expresses concern* that growing older presents a significant additional risk of vulnerability to economic insecurity and poverty and that people living in areas where poverty is endemic, and having endured a life of poverty and deprivation, are often at greater risk of slipping deeper into poverty in their older age;

7. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream ageing into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development, the realization of all human rights for older persons, the promotion of social integration and the prevention and elimination of age discrimination, including by highlighting a gender perspective;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to promote the understanding of ageing as an issue of concern to society as a whole, through lifelong education at all levels, in order to combat ageism and discrimination against older persons;

9. *Further encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches such as empowerment and participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider setting benchmarks for action at the national level based on the successes and good practices, shortcomings and future priorities identified in their national and regional levels of review and appraisal in furthering implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures to promote and protect the rights of older persons and measures aimed at providing economic and social security and health care, while considering the Madrid Plan of Action and mainstreaming a gender perspective, the full participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives, and ageing with dignity;

12. *Encourages* Member States to formulate and implement pension policies and seek to improve the effectiveness of their social protection and security systems, taking into consideration that it is necessary to promote decent work, which will subsequently allow for decent retirement;

13. *Also encourages* Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

14. *Further encourages* Member States to address the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, including long-term care and palliative care, and recognizes that the incidence and impacts of non-communicable diseases can be largely prevented or reduced with an approach that incorporates evidence-based, affordable, cost-effective, population-wide and multisectoral interventions;

15. *Encourages* Member States to harness scientific research and expertise and realize the potential of technology and of rapid technological change to focus on, inter alia, the individual, social, educational and health implications of ageing, in particular in developing countries;

16. *Invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, such as organizations of older persons and academia, and with the private sector in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing;

17. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

18. *Invites* Member States as well as other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

19. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the regional commissions on ageing to enable them to enhance their regional implementation activities;

20. *Requests* the regional commissions to continue to facilitate, including through their intergovernmental bodies, the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action based on the priorities identified in the outcomes of their regional review and appraisal exercises and as a modality for the inclusion of older persons in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Invites* its functional commissions, within their mandates, to consider mainstreaming ageing issues, inter alia, by including ageing and the concerns of older persons in the emerging issues under their programmes of work, as appropriate, bearing in mind the importance of improving United Nations coordination and strengthening capacity-building, where needed, in order to improve the situation of older persons;

22. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to, within their respective mandates, give greater priority to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies;

23. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation, inter alia, cooperation among Member States, to support national efforts, upon request, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, and to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

24. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national

efforts, upon request, and to provide funding for research and the collection of data disaggregated by age, in addition to data disaggregated by sex and disability, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the outcomes of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in particular the relationship between development, social policy and the human rights of older persons to, inter alia, better inform the future work of relevant United Nations entities and bodies, including the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-eighth session, in 2020, a report on the modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and the implementation of the present resolution.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-sixth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

(a) Priority theme: addressing inequalities and challenges to inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(v) Family issues, policies and programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 6* (E/2018/26).

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes

(c) Emerging issues (to be determined).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Proposed programme plan for 2020;

(b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2020

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 56/101
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents that were before it at its fifty-sixth session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes;[1]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development;[2]

[1] A/73/61-E/2018/4.
[2] E/CN.5/2018/5.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

1. The Commission considered the review of its methods of work, under agenda item 2, at its 2nd and 11th meetings, on 29 January and 7 February 2018.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At the 11th meeting, on 7 February, the Secretary of the Commission orally corrected paragraph 4 of draft resolution E/CN.5/2018/L.5, entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development", submitted by the Vice-Chair, Bruno Rios Sanchez (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations.

3. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2018/L.5, as orally corrected, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

4. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America; after the adoption, a statement was made by the representative of El Salvador.

Chapter III

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 11th meetings, from 29 to 31 January and on 1, 5 and 7 February 2018. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/CN.5/2016/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all (E/CN.5/2018/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2018/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development (E/CN.5/2018/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes (A/73/61-E/2018/4);

(f) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2018/NGO/1-100).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 29 January, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

3. At the 11th meeting, on 7 February, the observer for Egypt[1] (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2018/L.4) and orally revised the seventeenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

4. Subsequently, Turkey[1] joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2018/L.4, as orally revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution II).

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States.

7. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of documents A/73/61-E/2018/4 and E/CN.5/2018/5 under the agenda item (see chap. I.C, draft decision).

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

A. Priority theme: strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

8. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 3rd and 11th meetings, on 29 January and 7 February, and held a general discussion of the item jointly with agenda item 3 (b) (Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups) at its 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 29 and 30 January and on 1 and 5 February 2018.

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 29 January, the Commission began its joint general discussion of agenda items 3 (a) and 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Bulgaria (also on behalf of the States members of the European Union and Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Peru, Paraguay, Portugal and Ghana, as well as the observers for Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Equatorial Guinea (on behalf of the African States), Costa Rica (also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay (comprising the Group of Friends of Older Persons at the United Nations in New York and in its national capacity), Egypt and Guatemala.

10. At its 4th meeting, on 30 January, the Commission resumed its joint general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of the Congo, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Belarus, Mexico, Israel, Switzerland, El Salvador and Namibia, as well as the observers for Zimbabwe, the Niger, Chile, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, Argentina, Hungary, Thailand, Georgia, South Africa, Uruguay, Kenya and the Dominican Republic.

11. At its 8th meeting, on 1 February, the Commission resumed its joint general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of Senegal, France, Qatar, Bulgaria, Romania, Bangladesh and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as well as the observers for Afghanistan, Morocco, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Serbia, Finland, Cuba, Mali, Cabo Verde, Botswana, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Italy, Monaco and Maldives.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made a statement.

13. At its 9th meeting, on 1 February, the Commission continued its joint general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of Benin, Brazil, China, the Republic of Korea, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Austria, the Republic of Moldova, Colombia, Japan and the United States, as well as the observers for Cameroon, Turkey, Zambia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Honduras, Nepal, Ecuador, Sweden, India, Sri Lanka, Libya, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Jamaica and the Holy See.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of the International Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made a statement.

15. At its 10th meeting, on 5 February, the Commission continued its joint general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representative of Malawi and the observer for Guinea.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Regional Commissions New York Office (on behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).

17. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Federation for Family Development, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, WOOMB International, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Loreto Generalate, International Federation of Associations of the Elderly, UDISHA, International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, Hope Foundation NGO, S. M. Sehgal Foundation, Hellenic Association of Political Scientists, Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall, BJD Reinsurance Consulting, World Organization for Early Childhood Education, African Youth Movement, Irene Menakaya School Onitsha and International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation.

Panel discussion

18. At its 3rd meeting, on 29 January, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme, "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all", moderated by the Secretary-General of the International Federation on Ageing, Jane Barratt. Following the keynote address by the Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile, Juan Somavía, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Vice-President of Costa Rica, Ana Helena Chacón; Minister of Social Solidarity of Egypt, Ghada Waly; Head of Unit, European Union Coordination and International Affairs of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, Mark Kamperhoff; and Group Chief Executive of DePaul International, Mark McGreevey. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Mexico, El Salvador, Namibia and Brazil, as well as the observers for Hungary, Costa Rica, Morocco, Cuba and South Africa. The representative of the International Labour Organization participated in the discussion, as well as the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Friedrich Ebert Foundation; SustainUs; International Federation on Ageing; and Soroptimist International.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)

19. At its 11th meeting, on 7 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all", which was contained in an informal paper circulated in the conference room, in English only, and submitted by the Chair (Iceland) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution III).

20. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of El Salvador and the United States and the observer for the Holy See.

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

21. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 6th and 11th meetings, on 31 January and 7 February, and held a joint general discussion of the item with agenda item 3 (a) (Priority theme: strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all) at its 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 29 and 30 January, and on 1 and 5 and February. (For a discussion of the joint general discussion of the items, see chap. III.A, paras. 8–17.)

Panel discussions

22. At its 6th meeting, on 31 January, the Commission held a panel discussion on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, moderated by an independent inclusive social development consultant and former Head of Strategic Alliances, HelpAge International, Sylvia Beales. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Minister of Social Action of Paraguay, Héctor Cárdenas; Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal and Chair of the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Review and Appraisal Conference, José António Vieira da Silva; Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhary; the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations, Lazarous Kapambwe; and Chair of the Epidemiology and Population Health Department at the American University of Beirut and the Co-founding Director of the Centre for Studies on Ageing in Lebanon, Abla Sibai. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Brazil, the Russian Federation, France, Paraguay, Namibia, Austria, Iran (the Islamic Republic of) and Japan, as well as the observers for Argentina, Guatemala, Indonesia, Costa Rica, South Africa, Kenya, Finland, Spain and the Dominican Republic. The observer for the European Union participated in the discussion, as well as the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, HelpAge International and International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

23. At its 7th meeting, on 31 January, the Commission held a panel discussion on the theme "Towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development: an evidence-based approach to the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda 2030" moderated by the Secretary-General of Rehabilitation International and former president of Disabled Peoples' International, Venus Ilagan. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Chairperson of China Disabled Persons Federation, Zhang Haidi; Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar; Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, Australia, Mary Crock; Deputy Director for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mesbah Ansari; and Senior Statistician at the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Margaret Mbogoni. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Romania, Namibia, the Sudan and Mexico, as well as the observers for Argentina, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Nigeria. The observer for the European Union participated in the discussion, as well as the representative of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The representative of the Gray Panthers, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also participated. At the 11th meeting, on 7 February, the Commission heard a presentation by one of the

panellists, the Deputy Director for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mesbah Ansari.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

24. At its 11th meeting, on 7 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled "Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002" (E/CN.5/2018/L.3), which was submitted by the Vice-Chair (China) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution IV).

C. Emerging issues: towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development

Panel discussion

25. At its 5th meeting, on 30 January, the Commission held a panel discussion on the emerging issue, "Towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development", moderated by the Chief Policy Adviser of the Danish Technological Institute, Research Fellow at Bradford University, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Special Adviser to DG CONNECT, European Commission on public sector innovation, e-government and public services, Jeremy Millard. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Research Fellow of the Development Research Centre of the State Council and Executive Vice-President of the China Centre for International Knowledge on Development, Sen Gong; Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute, Noor al-Malki al-Jehani; Senior Fellow at CSPO, a science policy think tank at Arizona State University, Adjunct Faculty member at Johns Hopkins University and a Senior Policy Editor for the Mercatus Center, George Mason University, Walter Valdivia; Research Assistant Professor and Principal Research Scientist at the Technology and Social Change Group of the University of Washington, Maria Garrido; and President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions from 2015–2017, Donna Scheeder. During the ensuing interactive discussion, interventions were made by the representatives of Haiti and Ghana, as well as the observers for Argentina, Germany, Costa Rica, Hungary, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Cuba and Kenya. The observer for the European Union participated in the discussion, as well as the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Baha'i International Community; International Federation on Ageing; Soroptomist International; and Sail of Hope.

Chapter IV
Programme questions and other matters

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018–2019

The Commission considered the agenda item at its 9th meeting, on 1 February 2018.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 11th meeting, on 7 February 2018. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2018/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-seventh session (see chap. I. B, draft decision).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session

1. At the 11th meeting, on 7 February 2018, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission, Mihaela Mecea (Romania), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session, as contained in document E/CN.5/2018/L.2.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Secretariat, in consultations with the Rapporteur, with its finalization.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters on 10 February 2017 and from 29 January to 7 February 2018. The Commission held 11 meetings (1st to 11th).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 29 January, the Vice-Chair, Yao Shaojun (China), opened the regular session.

3. At the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

4. Statements were also made by representatives of civil society and youth.

5. At the 8th meeting, on 1 February, a participant of the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council, held on 30 and 31 January 2018, made a statement.

B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of 41 States members of the Commission, observers for other States members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2018/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

7. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau. In its resolution 2010/10, the Council recommended that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission serve for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle.

8. At the 1st meeting of its fifty-sixth session, held on 10 February 2017, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Bruno Ríos Sanchez (Mexico) and Yao Shaojun (China) as Vice-Chairs of the Commission for the fifty-sixth session.

9. At the 2nd meeting of its fifty-sixth session, on 29 January 2018, the Commission elected, by acclamation, the following officers for the remainder of the fifty-sixth session:

Chair:

Nikulás Hannigan (Iceland)

Vice-Chairs:

Lot Dzonzi (Malawi)
Mihaela Mecea (Romania)

10. At the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mihaela Mecea (Romania), as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 29 January, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in documents E/CN.5/2018/1 and E/CN.5/2018/1/Corr.1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;
      (iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
      (iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (v) Family issues, policies and programmes;
   (c) Emerging issues: towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development.
4. Programme questions and other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in annex I to document E/CN.5/2018/1, on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, if necessary, during the course of the session.

E. Documentation

13. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-sixth session is contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title description*
A/73/61-E/2018/4	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes
E/CN.5/2018/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.5/2018/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2018/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
E/CN.5/2018/4	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
E/CN.5/2018/5	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development
E/CN.5/2018/L.1	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2018/L.2	6	Draft report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session
E/CN.5/2018/L.3	3 (b)	Draft resolution on the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
E/CN.5/2018/L.4	3	Draft resolution on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2018/L.5	2	Draft resolution on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2018/NGO/1-100[a]	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

[a] Available from www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd56/ngos-written-statements.html.

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